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FILED BY THE BOARD OF  
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

7/17/2001 *act*

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

In the Matter of	:	
	:	Administrative Action
KELLIE CUZZOLA, LCSW	:	
	:	
Licensed to Practice Social	:	CONSENT ORDER
Work in the State of New Jersey:	:	
	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Social Work Examiners ("the Board") upon a complaint from P.A. who alleged that Kellie Cuzzola ("respondent"), a Licensed Clinical Social Worker ("LCSW") and neighbor of P.A. and his family, engaged in both a personal and professional relationship with his ex-wife and his children. Specifically, P.A. alleged that respondent wrote a letter giving her personal and professional opinion regarding P.A., his ex-wife, and children, and this letter was used in a court proceeding involving P.A. and his ex-wife. P.A. enclosed a copy of the letter with his complaint.


Respondent, replying in writing to the complaint, stated that "[u]nder no circumstances have I counseled or had a professional relationship with [the ex-wife] or her children." Respondent admits that she wrote the letter, but stated that she and several other neighborhood parents were asked by the ex-wife to write a letter in support of the ex-wife's parenting skills.

The Board, having reviewed and discussed the matter, has determined that, accepting respondent's explanation, she has used her professional credentials and given a professional opinion under circumstances where she claims she never had a professional counseling relationship. Specifically, in the letter requested by the ex-wife, respondent wrote that P.A.'s child knows that "I am a licensed clinical social worker and that I work with children and families" and "[i]t is both my personal and professional opinion that [the child's] emotional and physical needs are being met when she is in the care of her mother...". This conduct constitutes professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

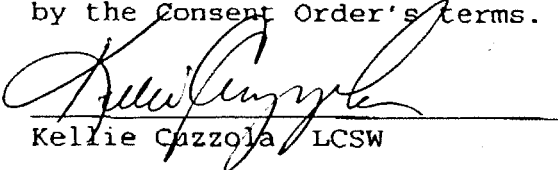
It appearing that the respondent desires to resolve this matter without resort to formal disciplinary proceedings and that good cause exists for the entry of the within Order,

IT IS ON THIS 17<sup>th</sup> DAY OF July 2001,  
HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty in the amount of one thousand, five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for conduct providing a basis for discipline pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e). Respondent shall pay the above penalty by certified check or money order, payable to the State of New Jersey, within thirty days of the entry of the within Consent Order. Payment shall be sent to Leslie Aronson, Executive Director, State Board of Social Work Examiners, P.O. Box 45033, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

  
Mariagnes Lattimer, Ph.D., MSW, LCSW

I have read the within Consent Order and understand its terms. I hereby consent to its entry and to be bound by the Consent Order's terms.

  
Kellie Cazzola, LCSW